

S M -309

Bowling/Countiss Tenant House
Mechanicsville
Private

Late 19th C.

This small, one and a half story frame house is representative of the houses built in the last quarter of the 19th and first quarter of the 20th century as residences for farm laborer families of both races.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SM-309

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

MAGI# 1903095604

1 NAME

HISTORIC

THE BOWLING - CONTE TENANT HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Mechanicsville-Chaptico Rd., 0.5
mile west of Jct. Rt. 5 and Mechanicsville-Chaptico Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Mechanicsville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- ☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- ☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
☒ ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

- ☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Thomas Swarey

Strip house for tobacco

STREET & NUMBER

Telephone #: 884-4675

CITY, TOWN

Mechanicsville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. St. Mary's County Courthouse

Liber #: Map 12
Folio #: P. 12 and P. 13

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This abandoned frame house stands at the end of a dirt drive that cuts through the fields that the occupants of the house once farmed. The house faces south across the fields and toward the Mechanicsville-Chaptico Rd. Behind it stand several small frame sheds and to the east are a corn^{crib} and several large, frame, modern tobacco barns. Only the barns remain in use. To the west of the house is a mobile home occupied by Lloyd Co ntee and, his wife, and their grandchildren. Co ntee and his wife raised their children at this "home place".

This structure consists of a 1 and ½ story block with a 1 story wing attached to its west gable end. Behind the wing is a small one room kitchen. All of these parts are of one build. A front porch has been added to the facade. The frame is of the post and beam type; its members cut by a circular saw and fastened by cut nails. The frame was sheathed by overlapping weatherboards that are now covered with red "brick-tex" synthetic siding.

The principal block is two bays in length, and one bay in depth. The wing is three bays in length, equidistantly placed from each other. Each of the three rooms downstairs was heated, the kitchen and the room in the main block (which was a bedroom) by wood stoves and the room in the wing which was to become the "sitting room" by a large brick fire-box now sealed with tin sheeting. The firebox is surrounded by a matelpiece of rather awkward design and manufacture but with Greek Revial aspirations. A stove pipe has been let into the wall above it, showing tha t the stove was added.

The upstairs of the main block and the wing served as two bedrooms, according to Mr. Co ntee, and were unheated. The ceiling was sealed by plank siding, as were the walls of the house. The trims around the doors were unpainted, and plain, but were made more stylish in appearance by the recessed moldings of bold concentric circles in the upper corners. This molding appears to have been inexpensive and available, and became very popular among those white and black folk in southern Maryland who had some surplus money to decorate their house beyond bare structural simplicity.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES 1870's or 1880's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Mr. Countee, this house was occupied by both white and black tenant families since the early 1900's. Structural evidence is inconclusive for dating purposes. For a tenant house, it is large in size when compared to other tenant dwellings surveyed, and its living space is divided into rooms for specific purposes. All of the its building materials are purchased, and it shows more stylish features in its woodwork. These features suggest that this tenant house is not antebellum, but is

instead no earlier than the 1870's. Its local reputation as an "old house" in the early 1900's indicates that it was built no later than 1890. .

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History & Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



11-21
Bowling Green Tenant House
STMA 309
Mechanicsville, Md.
South facade
GWM - 11/77



Bowling Conte Tenant House
STMA 309
Mechanicsville, Md.

North facade

GWM — 11/77



Bowling - Conte Tenant House
Outbuildings
STMA 309
Mechanicsville, Md.
GWM — 11/77



Bowling - Conte
Out Buildings
STMA 309
Mechanicsville, Md.

GWM — 11/77